

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2012 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release #26

Summer Announcement #22, District 4 Subsistence Salmon Fishing Schedule

Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

Consistent with preseason management strategies, subsistence fishing periods have already been cancelled in lower river districts and similar actions are being implemented in upriver fishing districts based on migratory timing of Chinook salmon. Based on the assessment information to date, the Chinook salmon run is poor, and additional measures are being taken to conserve Chinook salmon for escapement. In an effort to protect Chinook salmon as they pass through this long section of river, Subdistrict 4-A has been divided into two separate areas.

Subdistrict 4-A-Lower (from $\frac{3}{4}$ miles downstream of Old Paradise Village upstream to Stink Creek): This area includes the mainstem Yukon River communities of Anvik and Grayling. Subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistrict 4-A-Lower is currently closed and will remain closed for the period that was scheduled from 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 4, until 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 6, to conserve Chinook salmon. The department will notify fishermen by July 6 concerning the next subsistence salmon fishing period and schedule for this lower portion of Subdistrict 4-A.

Subdistrict 4-A-Upper (from Stink Creek upstream to Cone Point): This area includes the mainstem Yukon River communities of Kaltag, Nulato, and Koyukuk. To conserve Chinook salmon, subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistrict 4-A-Upper will close at 6:00 p.m. Monday, July 2, and will remain closed for the period that was scheduled from 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 4, until 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 6. The department will notify fishermen by July 6 concerning the next subsistence salmon fishing period and schedule for this upper portion of Subdistrict 4-A.

Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C (from Cone Point to Illinois Creek): This area includes the mainstem Yukon River communities of Galena and Ruby. Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C are currently on their regulatory subsistence salmon fishing schedule which consists of two 48-hour periods each week from 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays until 6:00 pm Fridays and from 6:00 p.m. Sundays until 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays. To conserve Chinook salmon, subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C will close at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 3, and will remain closed for the period that was scheduled from 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 4, until 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 6. The department will notify fishermen by July 6 concerning the next subsistence salmon fishing period and schedule for Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C.

State regulations do not allow the use of drift gillnets in State waters of Subdistrict 4-B and 4-C. Federal regulations allow the use of drift gillnets in Federal waters of Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C during open subsistence salmon fishing periods. Subsistence salmon fishermen should consult both State and Federal regulations before subsistence fishing. Subsistence fishermen wishing to utilize drift gillnet gear in these subdistricts should contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at (907) 656-1231 or (907) 455-1845 for the fishing schedule, permit requirements, and gear restrictions.

Koyukuk River: Subsistence salmon fishing continues to be open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day. Effective 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 3, gillnets will be restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size.

During subsistence salmon fishing closures, fish wheels may not be operated and gillnets with a mesh size greater than four inches and a length greater than 60 feet must be removed from the water.

Fishermen in all of District 4 should stand by for short notice news releases regarding the subsistence salmon fishing closure to protect the first and second pulses of Chinook salmon as they pass through these subdistricts.

Recorded fishery announcements and updates will be available 24 hours a day at 949-1731 or 1-866-479-7387. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Emmonak ADF&G office at 949-1320, the Fairbanks ADF&G office at 459-7274, or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 455-1845.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.